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The Official Newsletter of the Caribbean Studies Association - September 2021 Edition

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR



From our President

The CSA has started its engine and its up and running. The implementation of the 2021/22 workplan has rolled out with the reimagined mentoring programme that reflects the sensibilities of our time. In short, **The CSA Young Scholars Mentoring Programme (YSMP)** is structured on the traditional values of mentorship with a complementary activity **The CSA Young Scholars Dialogue (YSD)**.



Meagan Sylvester

Another milestone is the two-pronged approach which the organisation has adopted primarily for greater efficiency in processing submissions and to bring the CSA in closer alignment with international standards in conference planning. See details inside.



Raymond Laureano-Ortiz
Managing Editor,
CSA Journal

From the CSA Journal

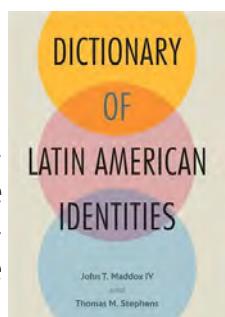
The CSA Journal: The Emerging Space for Global Scholarly Exchange on Caribbean Studies

Under the name of *Caribbean Conjunctions: The Caribbean Studies Association Journal*, this editorial project aims to promote the field of Caribbean Studies from a multilingual, multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, and multicultural point of view. It seeks to disseminate the work from scholars and practitioners that relate to the Greater Caribbean region – including Central America and the Caribbean coasts of Mexico and South America (Venezuela, Colombia, Northeast Brazil, and the three Guianas). The journal also embraces research and analysis which documents the importance of the Caribbean's connection to the African continent and the growing significant presence of populations of Caribbean descent in the diaspora, especially in United States, Canada, and Europe.

Send in your submissions. We would love to publish your work.

New Book

This month we feature the volume entitled *Dictionary of Latin American Identities* written by John T. Maddox IV and Thomas M. Stephens. This is a dictionary of 21,000 terms related to race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality used in the region over the past five centuries. It includes the languages of Spanish, Portuguese, French, and their Creoles, and encompasses an interdisciplinary range of sources that highlight the intersectional nature of identity.



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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR cont'd

Member Highlight

Dr. Irma McClaurin is a visionary, academic entrepreneur, and founder of the Irma McClaurin Black Feminist Archive at the University of Massachusetts Amherst (<http://irmamclaurin.com/works/black-feminist-archive/>). She is an activist anthropologist who presented her first paper at CSA in 1995 and holds a life/long membership. She has served on CSA's Executive Committee and was Program Chair for the 2003 CSA conference held in Belize. Her anthropological focus is on the social construction of inequality and intersectionality and she had conducted research in Belize, Suriname and the United States.



Caribbean Scholarship

People Power Movements in Caribbean Festival Culture

On Monday, September 27, 2021 at 4:00pm, The Africana Studies & Research Center (ASRC) at Cornell University hosted a virtual lecture by Meagan Sylvester: People Power Movements in Caribbean Festival Culture



Meagan Sylvester, - Senior Lecturer, Music Sociologist, Author, Researcher.

Your Commentary



Alicia Nicholls shares with our community the article "From 'symbolic to substantive': What next for Post-Summit Africa-CARICOM Relations?" which focuses on some of the major take-aways from the AU-CARICOM Summit and offer some suggestions on how we can make this moment in history one which is not merely symbolic but substantive.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Eris Schoburgh

REIMAGINING AND INNOVATING – IMPERATIVES OF OUR TIME

Fellow Members!

I trust that you and loved ones continue to remain in good mental and physical health. For those of us who have returned to the *hallowed halls* of higher education, whether as facilitators of, or in pursuit of learning,

may your experience this semester and throughout the academic year be a fulfilling one. Well as we say in the lingo of the street... *wi rollin!*

In translation, implementation of the 2021/22 workplan has begun in earnest. First out of the blocks is a reimagined mentoring programme that reflects the sensibilities of our time. Consequently **The CSA Young Scholars Mentoring Programme (YSMP)** is structured on the traditional values of mentorship with a complementary activity **The CSA Young Scholars Dialogue (YSD)** that aims to provide an avenue through which the younger cohort in our membership can voice their opinions and share their perspectives on issues relative to the Caribbean. Twenty (20) applications were received from graduate students interested in participating in the YSMP - 17 PhDs; 1 MPhil/PhD; 2 MAs. Eighteen (18) academics accepted the invitation to assume the role of mentor, all of whom are at a senior level in their careers and of which two (2) are retired but remain active in the field. The majority of pairings are dyads, with the exception of two (2) that are triads. Three (3) mentees expressed an interest in participating in the YSD.

The official virtual launch of the YSMP is being planned for October 2, 2021 at 6:00pm EST.

Second, streamlining of the procedures to effectuate a two pronged approach to the CSA2022 conference call is underway. The two-pronged approach is adopted primarily for greater efficiency in processing submissions and to bring the CSA in closer alignment with international standards in conference planning. A critical output of this restructuring process is a redesign of the webpage to remove the kinks that have perennially plagued the proposal submission process. Importantly, this exercise will assist the Executive

Council in determining if the present IT infrastructure serves the needs of the Association sufficiently in this digital age.

Members should be keen to note that: The **first call is for PANEL, ROUND TABLE or WORKSHOP tracks only**, to which abstracts will be solicited in a second round.

Prospective Panel, Round Table, or Workshop chairs and co-chairs, should develop a topic on an aspect of the main conference theme that can accommodate a variety of papers. The conference theme and description, timelines for submission and all relevant information will be posted on the webpage. The webpage is being redeveloped and tested and will go live soon.

In my preparation to assume the leadership of CSA I had indicated in a previous insert that...*we must ... learn, adapt and transform. Transformation of thinking and how we structure interactions must become imperatives of our time. Transformation for CSA starts with an acknowledgement that its digital footprint must be consolidated to facilitate a seamless process of interactions within a new social space...the virtual space. Technology (its utilization and the supporting infrastructure) is not an addition to, it represents the core.*

Once again: The first task of leadership within a network, irrespective of the circumstances, is to define the reality. The reality is that the status quo no longer holds.

As we chart a new path in an intentional way, the efforts of those that work behind the scenes must be acknowledged. Foremost is the CTET Committee which under the leadership of Sally Stanier never misses a beat in translating documents to enable information-sharing; Kiah Graham, our in-house IT specialist who helps us to bridge the physical and virtual spaces; Mala Johkan our secretary, who acts as our knowledge and communication hub; and Regan Reid our new Graduate Student Representative who has been an effective liaison and whose work ethic is compatible with mine. Appreciate it guys! More work to come!

Much blessings.

Eris Schoburgh
President CSA 2021-2022

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT cont'd

Español

REIMAGINAR E INNOVAR - IMPERATIVOS DE NUESTRO TIEMPO

¡Compañeros!

Confío en que usted y sus seres queridos continúen gozando de buena salud física y mental. Para aquellos de nosotros que hemos regresado a los sagrados pasillos de la educación superior, ya sea como facilitadores o en busca de aprendizaje, que su experiencia este semestre y durante todo el año académico sea satisfactoria. Bueno, como decimos en la jerga de la calle... ¡wi rollin!

En traducción, la implementación del plan de trabajo 2021/22 ha comenzado en serio. El primero de los bloques es un programa de tutoría reinventado que refleja las sensibilidades de nuestro tiempo. En consecuencia, el **Programa de Mentoría de Jóvenes Académicos de CSA (YSMP)** está estructurado sobre los valores tradicionales de la tutoría con una actividad complementaria **El Diálogo de Jóvenes Académicos de CSA (YSD)** que tiene como objetivo proporcionar una vía a través de la cual la cohorte más joven de nuestra membresía pueda expresar sus opiniones y compartir sus perspectivas sobre temas relacionados con el Caribe. Se recibieron veinte (20) solicitudes de estudiantes graduados interesados en participar en el YSMP - 17 doctorados; 1 MPhil / Doctorado; 2 MA. Dieciocho (18) académicos aceptaron la invitación para asumir el rol de mentor, todos los cuales se encuentran en un nivel superior en sus carreras y de los cuales dos (2) están jubilados pero permanecen activos en el campo.

La mayoría de los emparejamientos son diádas, con la excepción de dos (2) que son tríadas. Tres (3) aprendices expresaron interés en participar en el YSD.

El lanzamiento virtual oficial del YSMP está planeado para el 2 de octubre de 2021 a las 6:00 pm EST.

En segundo lugar, está en marcha la simplificación de los procedimientos para llevar a cabo un enfoque de dos frentes para la teleconferencia CSA2022. El enfoque de dos vertientes se adopta principalmente para una mayor eficiencia en el procesamiento de presentaciones y para acercar la CSA a los estándares internacionales en la planificación de conferencias. Un resultado crítico de este proceso de reestructuración es un rediseño de la página web para eliminar los problemas que han plagado constantemente el proceso de presentación de propuestas. Es importante destacar que este ejercicio ayudará al Consejo Ejecutivo a determinar si la actual in-

fraestructura de TI satisface suficientemente las necesidades de la Asociación en esta era digital.

Los miembros deben tener en cuenta que: **La primera convocatoria es solo para pistas de PANEL, MESA REDONDA o TALLER**, a las que se solicitarán resúmenes en una segunda ronda.

Los presidentes y copresidentes del panel, mesa redonda o taller prospectivo deben desarrollar un tema sobre un aspecto del tema principal de la conferencia que pueda acomodar una variedad de artículos. El tema y la descripción de la conferencia, los plazos para la presentación y toda la información relevante se publicarán en la página web. La página web está siendo remodelada y probada y pronto estará disponible.

En mi preparación para asumir el liderazgo de CSA había indicado en un encarte anterior que... *debemos... aprender, adaptarnos y transformarnos. La transformación del pensamiento y cómo estructuramos las interacciones deben convertirse en imperativos de nuestro tiempo. La transformación de CSA comienza con el reconocimiento de que su huella digital debe consolidarse para facilitar un proceso fluido de interacciones dentro de un nuevo espacio social... el espacio virtual. La tecnología (su utilización y la infraestructura de apoyo) no es una adicción, representa el núcleo.*

Una vez más: la primera tarea del liderazgo dentro de una red, independientemente de las circunstancias, es definir la realidad. La realidad es que el status quo ya no se mantiene.

A medida que trazamos un nuevo camino de manera intencional, se deben reconocer los esfuerzos de quienes trabajan detrás de escena. El principal es el Comité CTET que, bajo el liderazgo de Sally Stanier, nunca pierde el ritmo en la traducción de documentos para permitir el intercambio de información; Kiah Graham, nuestro especialista en TI interno que nos ayuda a unir los espacios físicos y virtuales; Mala Johkan, nuestra secretaria, que actúa como nuestro centro de conocimiento y comunicación; y Regan Reid, nuestra nueva representante de estudiantes graduados, que ha sido un enlace eficaz y cuya ética de trabajo es compatible con la mía. ¡Lo agradezco chicos! Más trabajo por venir

Muchas bendiciones.

Eris Schobburgh
Presidente CSA 2021-2022

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT cont'd

Français

RÉIMAGINER ET INNOVER – IMPÉRATIFS DE NOTRE TEMPS

Amis membres !

J'espère que vous et vos proches continuez à rester en bonne santé mentale et physique. Pour ceux d'entre nous qui sont retournés dans les salles sacrées de l'enseignement supérieur, que ce soit en tant que facilitateurs ou en quête d'apprentissage, que votre expérience ce semestre et tout au long de l'année universitaire soit enrichissante. Et bien comme on dit dans le jargon de la rue...wi rollin !

En traduction, la mise en œuvre du plan de travail 2021/22 a véritablement commencé. Le premier des blocs est un programme de mentorat réinventé qui reflète les sensibilités de notre temps. Par conséquent, le **CSA Young Scholars Mentoring Program (YSMP)** est structuré sur les valeurs traditionnelles du mentorat avec une activité complémentaire **Le CSA Young Scholars Dialogue (YSD)** qui vise à fournir un moyen par lequel la cohorte plus jeune de nos membres peut exprimer ses opinions et partager leurs points de vue sur les questions relatives aux Caraïbes. Vingt (20) candidatures ont été reçues d'étudiants diplômés intéressés à participer au YSMP - 17 doctorats; 1 MPhil/PhD ; 2 MA. Dix-huit (18) universitaires ont accepté l'invitation à assumer le rôle de mentor, tous étant à un niveau supérieur dans leur carrière et dont deux (2) sont à la retraite mais demeurent actifs dans le domaine.

La majorité des appariements sont des dyades, à l'exception de deux (2) qui sont des triades. Trois (3) mentorés ont exprimé leur intérêt à participer au JDD.

Le lancement virtuel officiel du YSMP est prévu pour le 2 octobre 2021 à 18 h 00 HNE.

Deuxièmement, la rationalisation des procédures pour effectuer une approche à deux volets de la conférence téléphonique CSA2022 est en cours. L'approche à deux volets est adoptée principalement pour une plus grande efficacité dans le traitement des soumissions et pour rapprocher l'ASC des normes internationales en matière de planification de conférences. Un résultat essentiel de ce processus de restructuration est une refonte de la page Web pour supprimer les défauts qui ont toujours entravé le processus de soumission des propositions. Il est important de noter que cet exercice aidera le Conseil exécutif à déterminer si l'infrastructure informatique actuelle répond suffisamment aux besoins de l'Association en cette ère numérique.

Les membres doivent être attentifs à noter que : **Le premier appel concerne uniquement les pistes PANEL, TABLE RONDE ou ATELIER**, pour lesquelles des résumés seront sollicités lors d'un second tour.

Les futurs présidents et coprésidents des panels, des tables rondes ou des ateliers devraient développer un sujet sur un aspect du thème principal de la conférence pouvant accueillir une variété de documents. Le thème et la description de la conférence, les délais de soumission et toutes les informations pertinentes seront affichés sur la page Web. La page Web est en cours de refonte et de test et sera bien-tôt mise en ligne.

Dans ma préparation pour assumer la direction de l'ASC, j'avais indiqué dans un encart précédent que... *nous devons... apprendre, nous adapter et nous transformer. La transformation de la pensée et la façon dont nous structurons les interactions doivent devenir des impératifs de notre temps. La transformation de l'ASC commence par la reconnaissance que son empreinte numérique doit être consolidée pour faciliter un processus transparent d'interactions au sein d'un nouvel espace social... l'espace virtuel. La technologie (son utilisation et l'infrastructure de soutien) n'est pas un ajout, elle en représente le noyau.*

Encore une fois : La première tâche du leadership au sein d'un réseau, quelles que soient les circonstances, est de définir la réalité. La réalité est que le statu quo ne tient plus.

Alors que nous traçons intentionnellement une nouvelle voie, les efforts de ceux qui travaillent dans les coulisses doivent être reconnus. Au premier plan se trouve le Comité CTET qui, sous la direction de Sally Stanier, ne manque jamais une miette dans la traduction de documents pour permettre le partage d'informations ; Kiah Graham, notre spécialiste informatique interne qui nous aide à faire le pont entre les espaces physiques et virtuels ; Mala Johkan notre secrétaire, qui agit comme notre centre de connaissances et de communication ; et Regan Reid, notre nouveau représentant des étudiants diplômés, qui a été une liaison efficace et dont l'éthique de travail est compatible avec la mienne. Appréciez ça les gars ! Plus de travail à venir!

Beaucoup de bénédictions.

Eris Schoburgh
Présidente CSA 2021-2022

SPECIAL FEATURE ON THE CSA JOURNAL



Raymond Laureano-Ortiz

The CSA Journal: The Emerging Space for Global Scholarly Exchange on Caribbean Studies

In a period of over 45 years, the Caribbean Studies Association (CSA) has established a strong tradition of annual academic conferences, Caribbean scholarship, and diverse membership. To carry on this tradition and grow the association in terms of membership, visibility, and reach, the CSA is launching its own academic journal, an initiative that has been proposed for a long time.

Under the name of *Caribbean Conjunctures: The Caribbean Studies Association Journal*, this editorial project aims to promote the field of Caribbean Studies from a multilingual, multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, and multicultural point of view. It seeks to disseminate the work from scholars and practitioners that relate to the Greater Caribbean region – including Central America and the Caribbean coasts of Mexico and South America (Venezuela, Colombia, Northeast Brazil, and the three Guianas). The journal also embraces research and analysis which documents the importance of the Caribbean's connection to the African continent and the growing significant presence of populations of Caribbean descent in the diaspora, especially in United States, Canada, and Europe.

The journal will be publishing research articles and reviews on books and art exhibitions. Submissions will be welcome from the humanities and the social sciences in five languages – Papiamento, Dutch, French, Spanish, and English. Several other Caribbean Studies journals (e.g., *Caribbean Studies* and *Sargasso* published by Universidad de Puerto Rico, the *New West Indian Guide* in Netherlands, *Études caribéennes* by the Université des Antilles, *Anales del Caribe* and *Del Caribe* in Cuba, *Small Axe* and *Anthurium* in USA, *Karib* in Scandinavia, and *Revista Mexicana del Caribe* and *CariCen* in Mexico) aim at a similar scholarly space by publishing in a number of these five languages. The CSA Journal, however, is leveraging the longstanding trajectory of the association as a premier annual convergence point for the global Caribbean Studies community of scholars. It is indeed seeking to tap into the association's significant potential as a knowledge producer and as a permanent scholarly repository.

The UWI Press is the publishing partner for the CSA journal, which is slated to produce two issues per year starting in 2022. The submission and evaluation of manuscript proposals is being managed through a web platform that is allowing authors, editors, and peer reviewers to watch progress of their respective articles within the double-blind peer review process.

The grand theme of the inaugural issue is "The Caribbean and COVID-19". After that, Carol Boyce-Davies will be guest editor of two numbers being planned around the concept of "historical and contemporary Caribbean conjunctures", which is being defined broadly to accommodate a significant number of Caribbean-related research interests.

The journal has a multilingual (Papiamento, Dutch, French, Spanish and English), global (across 5 continents), and multidisciplinary team of 29 editors, 35 advisers, and more than 100 peer reviewers. A 5-member core executive group manage the journal's team and operations: Editor-in-Chief Opal Palmer Adisa, Managing Editor Raymond Laureano-Ortiz, and the originators of the journal project and co-chairs of its Advisory Board, Tavis Jules (CSA's Immediate Past President and Chicago-based scholar with roots in Guyana), Meagan Sylvester (CSA's Newsletter Editor and Trinidad-based scholar), and Chenzira Davis-Kahina (CSA's Vice President and Virgin Islands-based scholar).

Dr. Davis-Kahina directs the Virgin Islands Caribbean Cultural Center (VICCC), which has become the CSA Journal Fund's first donor, with a first-year commitment of \$2,500 and four subsequent annual contributions of \$1,000. Editor-in-Chief Opal Palmer Adisa is a Jamaica-based writer and scholar that directs the Institute for Gender and Development Studies at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus. As Managing Editor, Puerto Rico-based historian and engineer Raymond Laureano-Ortiz administers the journal's infrastructure, processes, human resources, and communications. For the 2021-2022 cycle, Dr. Laureano-Ortiz was elected to collaborate as one of CSA's Executive Council Members, as Vice President of the Association of Caribbean Historians (ACH), and as Chair of United Kingdom's Society for Caribbean Studies (SCS-UK).



More information on the journal and its team can be found at the website <https://www.caribbeanstudiesassociation.org/csa-journal>.

SPECIAL FEATURE ON THE CSA JOURNAL cont'd

Inquiries and observations may be directed to the Managing Editor at csajournal@caribbeanstudiesassociation.org. Since papers are still being reviewed for the journal's first issue on the Caribbean and COVID-19, a special call is made to our global community of scholars to serve as a peer reviewers of one or more papers in English, Spanish, or French, especially within the next four weeks (double-blind peer-review process), if your research interest or expertise falls within the following fields as they relate to Caribbean studies: education, public administration, sociology, social work, social-science-focused gender studies (as opposed to literary-studies-focused), economics, social aspects of climate change, demography, migrations, political science, and performance studies.

Español

The CSA Journal: El espacio emergente para el intercambio académico global sobre estudios caribeños

Por Raymond LAUREANO-ORTIZ

En un período de más de 45 años, la Asociación de Estudios del Caribe (CSA) ha establecido una sólida tradición de conferencias académicas anuales, becas caribeñas y membresía diversa. Para continuar con esta tradición y hacer crecer la asociación en términos de membresía, visibilidad y alcance, la CSA está lanzando su propia revista académica, una iniciativa que se ha propuesto durante mucho tiempo.

Bajo el nombre de Caribbean Conjunctures: The Caribbean Studies Association Journal, este proyecto editorial tiene como objetivo promover el campo de los estudios caribeños desde un punto de vista plurilingüe, multidisciplinario, interdisciplinario y multicultural. Busca difundir el trabajo de académicos y profesionales que se relacionan con la región del Gran Caribe, incluidas América Central y las costas caribeñas de México y América del Sur (Venezuela, Colombia, Noreste de Brasil y las tres Guayanas). La revista también incluye investigaciones y análisis que documentan la importancia de la conexión del Caribe con el continente africano y la creciente presencia significativa de poblaciones de ascendencia caribeña en la diáspora, especialmente en Estados Unidos, Canadá y Europa.

La revista publicará artículos de investigación y reseñas sobre libros y exposiciones de arte. Se recibirán presentaciones de humanidades y ciencias sociales en cinco idiomas: papiamento, holandés, francés, español e inglés. Varias otras revistas de Caribbean Studies (por ejemplo, Caribbean Studies and Sargasso publicado por la Universidad de Puerto Rico, New West Indian Guide en Holanda, Études caribéennes por la Université des Antilles, Anales del Caribe y Del

Caribe en Cuba, Small Axe y Anthurium en EE. UU., Karib en Escandinavia y Revista Mexicana del Caribe y CariCen en México) apuntan a un espacio académico similar al publicar en varios de estos cinco idiomas. El CSA Journal, sin embargo, está aprovechando la trayectoria de larga data de la asociación como un punto de convergencia anual principal para la comunidad global de académicos de Estudios del Caribe. De hecho, está tratando de aprovechar el importante potencial de la asociación como productora de conocimiento y como depósito académico permanente.

UWI Press es el socio editorial de la revista CSA, que está programada para producir dos números por año a partir de 2022. La presentación y evaluación de propuestas de manuscritos se gestiona a través de una plataforma web que permite a los autores, editores y revisores pares observe el progreso de sus respectivos artículos dentro del proceso de revisión por pares doble ciego.

El gran tema del número inaugural es "El Caribe y COVID-19". Después de eso, Carol Boyce-Davies será editora invitada de dos números que se están planificando en torno al concepto de "coyunturas históricas y contemporáneas del Caribe", que se está definiendo ampliamente para dar cabida a un número significativo de intereses de investigación relacionados con el Caribe.

La revista cuenta con un equipo plurilingüe (papiamento, holandés, francés, español e inglés), global (en los 5 continentes) y multidisciplinario de 29 editores, 35 asesores y más de 100 revisores pares. Un grupo ejecutivo central de 5 miembros administra el equipo y las operaciones de la revista: el editor en jefe Opal Palmer Adisa, el editor en jefe Raymond Laureano-Ortiz, y los creadores del proyecto de la revista y copresidentes de su Consejo Asesor, Tavis Jules (CSA's Ex presidenta inmediata y académica de Chicago con raíces en Guyana), Meagan Sylvester (editora del boletín de CSA y académica de Trinidad) y Chenzira Davis-Kahina (vicepresidenta de CSA y académica de las Islas Vírgenes).

La Dra. Davis-Kahina dirige el Centro Cultural Caribeño de las Islas Vírgenes (VICCC), que se ha convertido en el primer donante de CSA Journal Fund, con un compromiso de primer año de \$ 2,500 y cuatro contribuciones anuales posteriores de \$ 1,000. El editor en jefe Opal Palmer Adisa es un escritor y académico con sede en Jamaica que dirige el Instituto de Estudios de Género y Desarrollo de la Universidad de las Indias Occidentales, en el campus de Mona. Como editor gerente, el historiador e ingeniero Raymond Laureano-Ortiz, radicado en Puerto Rico, administra la infraestructura, los procesos, los recursos humanos y las comunicaciones de la revista. Para el

SPECIAL FEATURE ON THE CSA JOURNAL cont'd

ciclo 2021-2022, el Dr. Laureano-Ortiz fue elegido para colaborar como uno de los miembros del Consejo Ejecutivo de CSA, como vicepresidente de la Asociación de Historiadores del Caribe (ACH) y como presidente de la Sociedad de Estudios del Caribe del Reino Unido (SCS- REINO UNIDO).

Puede encontrar más información sobre la revista y su equipo en el sitio web <https://www.caribbeanstudiesassociation.org/csa-journal>. Las consultas y observaciones pueden dirigirse al Editor Gerente en csajournal@caribbeanstudiesassociation.org. Dado que todavía se están revisando artículos para el primer número de la revista sobre el Caribe y COVID-19, se hace un llamado especial a nuestra comunidad global de académicos para que sirvan como revisores de uno o más artículos en inglés, español o francés, especialmente dentro de durante las próximas cuatro semanas (proceso de revisión por pares doble ciego), si su interés o experiencia en la investigación se encuentra dentro de los siguientes campos relacionados con los estudios del Caribe: educación, administración pública, sociología, trabajo social, estudios de género centrados en las ciencias sociales (a diferencia de los centrados en estudios literarios), economía, aspectos sociales del cambio climático, demografía, migraciones, ciencias políticas y estudios de performance.

Français

The CSA Journal: L'espace émergent pour les échanges universitaires mondiaux sur les études caribéennes

En plus de 45 ans, la Caribbean Studies Association (CSA) a établi une solide tradition de conférences universitaires annuelles, de bourses caribéennes et de membres diversifiés. Pour perpétuer cette tradition et faire grandir l'association en termes d'adhésion, de visibilité et de rayonnement, l'ASC lance sa propre revue académique, une initiative qui est proposée depuis longtemps.

Sous le nom de Caribbean Conjunctures : The Caribbean Studies Association Journal, ce projet éditorial vise à promouvoir le domaine des études caribéennes d'un point de vue multilingue, multidisciplinaire, interdisciplinaire et multiculturel. Il vise à diffuser les travaux d'universitaires et de praticiens liés à la région de la Grande Caraïbe, y compris l'Amérique centrale et les côtes caribéennes du Mexique et de l'Amérique du Sud (Venezuela, Colombie, nord-est du Brésil et les trois Guyanes). La revue comprend également des recherches et des analyses qui documentent l'importance de la connexion des Caraïbes au continent africain et la présence croissante de populations d'origine caribéenne dans la diaspora, en particulier aux États-Unis, au Canada et en Europe.

La revue publiera des articles de recherche et des critiques de livres et d'expositions d'art. Les soumissions des sciences humaines et sociales seront les bienvenues en cinq langues - papiamento, néerlandais, français, espagnol et anglais. Plusieurs autres revues d'études caribéennes (par exemple, Caribbean Studies and Sargasso publié par l'Universidad de Puerto Rico, le New West Indian Guide aux Pays-Bas, Études caribéennes par l'Université des Antilles, Annales del Caribe et Del Caribe à Cuba, Small Axe et Anthurium aux États-Unis , Karib en Scandinavie et Revista Mexicana del Caribe et CariCen au Mexique) visent un espace universitaire similaire en publiant dans un certain nombre de ces cinq langues. Le CSA Journal, cependant, tire parti de la trajectoire de longue date de l'association en tant que premier point de convergence annuel pour la communauté mondiale des universitaires des études caribéennes. Il cherche en effet à exploiter le potentiel important de l'association en tant que producteur de connaissances et en tant que référentiel scientifique permanent.

UWI Press est le partenaire de publication de la revue CSA, qui devrait produire deux numéros par an à partir de 2022. La soumission et l'évaluation des propositions de manuscrits sont gérées via une plate-forme Web qui permet aux auteurs, éditeurs et évaluateurs de suivre les progrès de leurs articles respectifs dans le cadre du processus d'examen par les pairs en double aveugle.

Le grand thème du numéro inaugural est « Les Caraïbes et COVID-19 ». Après cela, Carol Boyce-Davies sera rédactrice en chef invitée de deux numéros prévus autour du concept de « conjonctions caribéennes historiques et contemporaines », qui est défini de manière large pour accueillir un nombre important d'intérêts de recherche liés aux Caraïbes.

La revue dispose d'une équipe multilingue (papiamento, néerlandais, français, espagnol et anglais), mondiale (sur 5 continents) et multidisciplinaire de 29 rédacteurs, 35 conseillers et plus de 100 évaluateurs. Un groupe exécutif de base de 5 membres gère l'équipe et les opérations de la revue : la rédactrice en chef Opal Palmer Adisa, le rédacteur en chef Raymond Laureano-Ortiz, et les initiateurs du projet de revue et les coprésidents de son conseil consultatif, Tavis Jules (CSA's Président sortant et universitaire basé à Chicago avec des racines en Guyane), Meagan Sylvester (rédactrice en chef de la newsletter de la CSA et universitaire basée à Trinidad) et Chenzira Davis-Kahina (vice-présidente de la CSA et universitaire basée aux îles Vierges).

SPECIAL FEATURE ON THE CSA JOURNAL cont'd

Le Dr Davis-Kahina dirige le Virgin Islands Caribbean Cultural Center (VICCC), qui est devenu le premier donateur du CSA Journal Fund, avec un engagement de 2 500 \$ la première année et quatre contributions annuelles subséquentes de 1 000 \$. La rédactrice en chef Opal Palmer Adisa est une écrivaine et universitaire basée en Jamaïque qui dirige l'Institute for Gender and Development Studies de l'Université des Antilles, Mona Campus. En tant que rédacteur en chef, l'historien et ingénieur de Porto Rico Raymond Laureano-Ortiz administre l'infrastructure, les processus, les ressources humaines et les communications de la revue. Pour le cycle 2021-2022, le Dr Laureano-Ortiz a été élu pour collaborer en tant que membre du Conseil exécutif de la CSA, en tant que vice-président de l'Association des historiens des Caraïbes (ACH) et en tant que président de la Société britannique d'études caribéennes (SCS- ROYAUME-UNI).

De plus amples informations sur la revue et son équipe sont disponibles sur le site Web <https://www.caribbeanstudiesassociation.org/csa-journal>. Les demandes de renseignements et les observations peuvent être adressées au rédacteur en chef à csajournal@caribbeanstudiesassociation.org. Étant donné que les articles sont toujours en cours d'examen pour le premier numéro de la revue sur les Caraïbes et COVID-19, un appel spécial est lancé à notre communauté mondiale d'universitaires pour qu'ils servent de pairs examinateurs d'un ou plusieurs articles en anglais, espagnol ou français, en particulier dans les quatre prochaines semaines (processus d'examen par les pairs en double aveugle), si votre intérêt ou votre expertise de recherche relève des domaines suivants en ce qui concerne les études caribéennes : éducation, administration publique, sociologie, travail social, études de genre axées sur les sciences sociales (par opposition aux études littéraires), l'économie, les aspects sociaux du changement climatique, la démographie, les migrations, les sciences politiques et les études de performance.

MESSAGE FROM THE LANGUAGE SUB-EDITORS



Jorge Lefevre Tavárez

Español

El Campamento Carey y la defensa de las costas en Puerto Rico

Durante el mes de julio en Puerto Rico, se evidenció un conflicto que contiene uno de los principales problemas ambientales de las Antillas, y que la agudización del cambio climático empeorará: la pérdida de terreno

costero debido al aumento del nivel del mar. El conflicto, sin embargo, involucró, también, los intereses inmediatos de sectores económicos privilegiados y sus intentos de construir en las costas, hecho repudiado por el pueblo de Puerto Rico y prohibido, incluso, por las leyes de la isla.

En el Condominio Sol y Playa, en el municipio de Rincón, los residentes – la mayoría de clases económicas acomodadas y algunos, incluso, con lazos al partido gobernante – habían comenzado la reconstrucción de una piscina cerca del mar, que se había destruido luego del paso del huracán María en el 2017. Esto, con el probable interés de querer aumentar el valor de la propiedad del condominio. La idea de una piscina frente al mar resulta, de por sí, extraña. Pero, debido al aumento del nivel del mar, surgió otro problema: el que la construcción de la piscina se encontrara, ahora, en la Zona Marítimo Terrestre (ZMT), protegida por legislación de cualquier construcción.

Todo análisis concluía que la nueva construcción estaría en violación de la prohibición de construcciones en la ZMT. Incluso, durante el proceso, se evidenció, también, que esas costas eran lugar de anidaje del carey y del tinglar, dos especies en peligro de extinción. Esto motivó que distintos sectores del país, sobre todo jóvenes, llegaran a las costas de Rincón para detener la construcción de la piscina y señalar lo que evidentemente resultaba en una violación de la ley y en un peligro ambiental.

El argumento de los residentes era que no se construía una nueva piscina, sino que se reconstruía una piscina vieja, y que en su momento (para cuando no se encontraba en la ZMT) contó con los permisos necesarios. Con respecto al carey y los tinglares, algunos de los residentes más desesperados del condominio argumentaron, contra toda evidencia científica, que estos fueron plantados por quienes protestaban. Si absurdos resultaron los argumentos, más trágico resultó el que los aparatos estatales, principalmente el Departamento de Recursos Naturales, se hayan aliado a los residentes,

impugnando las protestas y avalando la construcción con artificios legales.

El conflicto en el Condominio Sol y Playa viene a concentrar todas las contradicciones que surgen de una política pública que se supone que defienda las costas pero que son corrompidas por la avaricia económica del capital y la influencia de estos intereses en el gobierno. En última instancia, la lucha entre los manifestantes y los intereses desarrollistas expresa – conscientemente – el conflicto entre el bien común y el interés privado. Por eso, en el Campamento Carey – como los manifestantes han llamado al espacio en el que protestan – predominan consignas como “Las playas son de todxs”.

La construcción de la piscina, momentáneamente, se ha detenido, aunque los aparatos estatales siguen buscando la manera de permitirla. Hay esperanzas en una futura política pública cónsana con la preservación ecológica, si la perspectiva ecológica termina dominando el escenario político. Por ahora, parece ser que la única alternativa inmediata sigue siendo la protesta en defensa de las costas y el ambiente.

[Para un ensayo a fondo del Campamento Carey, ver el siguiente texto de Maritza Maymí, “Sin violencia, con conciencia”: el Campamento Carey y la lucha por la justicia ambiental, <https://www.momentocritico.org/post/sin-violencia-con-conciencia-el-campamento-carey-y-la-lucha-por-la-justicia-ambiental>.]

English

The “Carey Camp” and the defense of the coasts in Puerto Rico

The month of July in Puerto Rico brought about a conflict that pertains one of the principle environmental issues affecting the Antilles, one which will worsen because of climate change: the loss of coasts due to the rise in sea level. The conflict, however, also involved the immediate interests of privileged economic sectors and their attempts at constructing on the coasts, something repudiated by the Puerto Rican population and prohibited through law.

The residents of the Sol y Playa Condominium – most well-off economically and some with close ties to the governing party – had commenced the reconstruction of a pool by the sea, which had been destroyed during Hurricane Maria in 2017. The reconstruction was probably an attempt to raise the value of the property. The idea of a pool in front of the beach is, in itself, strange. However, due to the rise in sea level, another problem emerged: the area where the construction was taking place was now part of the Maritime Terrestrial Zone (MTZ), protected through legislation from any type of construction.

MESSAGE FROM THE LANGUAGE SUB-EDITORS cont'd

All analysis concluded that the new construction would be a clear violation of the prohibition of constructions in MTZ. During the events, it also became clear that these coasts were a nesting ground for the *carey* and *tinglar*, both under the threat of extinction. This made different sectors of society, particularly the youth, protest the construction of the pool and arrive at the shores of Rincón to stop it and point out this clear violation of the law and the environmental dangers accompanied.

The argument of the condominium's residents was that this was not a new pool, but the reconstruction of an old one, and that the original pool was granted permits in its time (when the area was still not a part of the MTZ). With regards to the *carey* and *tinglar*, some of the more desperate residents said that it was the protesters who brought them to these shores. Although these arguments are downright absurd, the fact that the state's apparatus, such as the Department of Natural Resources, sided with the residents and attempted to permit the constructions under any legal pretext possible is just tragic.

The conflict in Sol y Playa synthesized all of the contradictions that come from a public policy aimed at preserving the coasts and a state guided by the economic interests of capital and its greed. The

struggle between protesters, on one hand, and the interests of the developers, on the other, expresses – consciously – the conflict between the common good and private interest. That is why, in "Carey Camp" (Campamento Carey) – the name the protesters gave to the space where they manifest themselves –, one of the principle chants is "The shores are for everyone".

The construction of the pool has been stopped, for the moment, although the state apparatus is still finding a way to permit it. But all seems to indicate that the state defends a position repudiated by the majority of the population. This could bring hope that, in the future, there could be an enforcement of public policy aimed at ecological preservation, if that perspective dominates the political sphere. Until then, protests seem to be the only immediate alternative to defend the coasts.

[For an in-depth essay on the Campamento Carey, see: Maritza Maymí, "Sin violencia, con conciencia": el Campamento Carey y la lucha por la justicia ambiental, <https://www.momentocritico.org/post/sin-violencia-con-conciencia-el-campamento-carey-y-la-lucha-por-la-justicia-ambiental>.]



MESSAGE FROM THE LANGUAGE SUB-EDITORS cont'd



Myriam Moïse

Français

Terres polluées, corps empoisonnés : Le désordre colonial de la Chlordécone dans la Caraïbe française

Dans son ouvrage *Britain's Black Debt : Reparations for Caribbean Slavery and Native Genocide*, l'historien barbadien Sir Hilary Beckles appelle à une justice réparatrice et dénonce avec force le «

désordre colonial » que la Grande-Bretagne a laissé derrière elle dans la Caraïbe et qu'elle a désormais le devoir de réparer. Cette demande de réparation a des résonnances dans le monde entier et en particulier dans les territoires de la grande Caraïbe, c'est pourquoi j'utilise sciemment le terme « désordre colonial » dans le contexte du scandale de la chlordécone aux Antilles françaises.

La chlordécone (Kepone) c'est ce pesticide toxique créé dans les années 1950 et interdit vingt-cinq ans plus tard par les États-Unis après que la compagnie *Allied Chemical Corporation* eut été poursuivie pour avoir pollué les eaux de la *James River*. En 1979, l'Organisation mondiale de la santé a inclus le Kepone dans sa liste de produits chimiques toxiques et potentiellement cancérogènes et trente ans plus tard, en 2009, la production du pesticide a été officiellement interdite dans le monde en vertu de la Convention de Stockholm. En Guadeloupe et en Martinique, les propriétaires de bananeraies (pour la plupart des « békés », descendants blancs de propriétaires d'esclaves mais aussi des petites entreprises de planteurs propriétaires de leurs terres) ont continuellement utilisé la chlordécone qui était régulièrement pulvérisée par leurs ouvriers sur les cultures de bananes à partir de 1972. **L'utilisation de la chlordécone n'a en effet été interdite en France qu'en 1990, soit quinze ans après l'interdiction américaine. Le plus choquant est que l'interdiction française s'appliquait alors exclusivement à la France « métropolitaine » puisque les planteurs de bananes ont bénéficié d'une prolongation exceptionnelle pour utiliser la substance toxique aux Antilles françaises jusqu'en 1993. Pendant trois années supplémentaires, ce poison a ainsi été massivement pulvérisé sur les cultures bananières en Martinique et en Guadeloupe.** Depuis les bananeraies situées en amont, le pesticide a contaminé les cultures de patates douces et d'ignames en aval, puis l'eau des rivières et leurs élevages d'écrevisses, les crabes de bord de mer, les

bovins, et même le lait des vaches, empoisonnant ainsi nos sols, nos eaux, nos cultures, nos animaux et nos corps.

La chlordécone a maintenant pénétré nos terres et s'est répandue dans nos sols et il faudra plusieurs siècles pour qu'elle disparaîsse totalement. À ce jour, plus de 90 pourcent des Martiniquais et Guadeloupéens auraient été exposés à ce pesticide toxique. En 2018, les deux îles ont été déclarées comme ayant les taux de cancer de la prostate les plus élevés au monde (voir le rapport 2019 de la BBC News « Pesticide poisoned French paradise Islands in the Caribbean » par Laurence Peter). L'homme politique martiniquais Serge Letchimy, ancien député et récemment élu président de la Collectivité territoriale de Martinique (CTM), avait signalé que le pesticide pourrait également impacter la santé des enfants, notamment le développement du cerveau et les risques de naissance prématurée. Il est connu dans le monde entier que de nombreuses catastrophes écologiques ont touché en particulier les femmes et les enfants, par exemple la catastrophe industrielle de Seveso en 1976 en Italie avec son impact sur la fertilité, ou l'explosion en 1979 de la centrale nucléaire de Three Mile Island aux USA, à l'origine des nombreux cas de fausses couches dans cette région. Dans le cas de la chlordécone, les corps des Antillais ont continué à être empoisonnés en dépit de l'interdiction d'utilisation du pesticide sur le territoire national français.

Par ailleurs, dans le rapport parlementaire de Serge Letchimy, il est clairement indiqué que la France avait bien été informée du caractère dangereux du pesticide dès 1969. Quant à la dérogation pour prolonger l'utilisation du pesticide aux Antilles françaises, elle a été obtenue par le lobby des propriétaires de bananeraies (les békés, les propriétaires de plantations mais également les petites entreprises de propriétaires et planteurs de bananeraies qui possédaient leurs terres), ceci avec la complicité de certains politiques martiniquais qui pensaient alors que cette prolongation sauverait la filière de production locale de bananes de leurs communes qui ne pourrait jamais survivre sans l'usage de ce pesticide. **Bien qu'il soit évident que les békés ont détenu (et continuent à détenir) la plus grosse part du marché de la filière de production de bananes en Martinique, il n'est pas si facile de déterminer clairement les responsabilités individuelles et collectives dans cette affaire et les enchevêtrements de ce scandale de la chlordécone sont analysés dans l'ouvrage de Louis Boutrin et Raphaël Confiant, *Le scandale du Chlordécone : Chronique d'un empoisonnement annoncé* (2007).** Ce qui est certain, c'est que ce qui importait à l'époque n'était pas la santé de nos compatriotes mais plutôt la survie économique

MESSAGE FROM THE LANGUAGE SUB-EDITORS cont'd

d'un secteur agricole et donc la recherche du profit a supplanté la santé et la dimension humaine. Les responsables politiques martiniquais des années 1980-1990 n'ont pas considéré à l'époque la question de la chlordécone comme cruciale ou vitale et n'ont pas lutté avec force pour empêcher la France de prolonger l'utilisation de ce produit toxique dans nos territoires. **En permettant cette dérogation d'utilisation de ce produit cancérogène aux Antilles françaises, la France a trahi les populations martiniquaise et guadeloupéenne qui demandent désormais réparation.**

Alors que les demandes de justice étaient jusque-là restées relativement ignorées ou rejetées, à partir de 2018, les dirigeants politiques de Martinique et de Guadeloupe ont plaidé davantage en faveur de la justice environnementale et des réparations et le gouvernement français a reconnu que l'affaire de la chlordécone est en effet un scandale environnemental, quoi qu'en continuant en nier la nature cancérogène. Le gouvernement français a nommé une commission parlementaire spéciale pour rechercher des solutions afin de résoudre la crise de la chlordécone. **Martiniquais et Guadeloupéens ont été appelés à faire des analyses de sang pour évaluer le niveau de chlordécone dans leur corps et les sols et les eaux ont été testés pour évaluer le taux et les traces de ce pesticide, notamment à proximité des bananeraies.** En 2018, le Parc Naturel Régional de la Martinique a lancé une campagne pour la création d'un nouveau label : « Zéro chlordécone ». L'objectif est d'aider les consommateurs à trouver des produits ayant poussé en dehors des zones polluées par ce pesticide et de promouvoir ainsi les agriculteurs qui souscrivent à cette démarche « Zéro chlordécone ».

Cependant, ces initiatives ne nettoieront pas le désordre colonial de la chlordécone. Il y a eu en effet plusieurs manifestations publiques pour demander justice et condamnation des propriétaires et planteurs de bananeraies qui ont continué à utiliser le pesticide. Malgré les délais de prescription, des appels forts ont été lancés par la société civile pour que le procès ait lieu et que le gouvernement français assume sa part de responsabilité dans ce crime d'État. En mars 2021, lors d'une interview pour le quotidien France-Antilles, le procureur de la République précisait que malgré le fait que cette affaire ait été portée devant la justice en 2006 par des associations de Guadeloupe et de Martinique, les problèmes de prescription existaient pour la plupart dès le moment où les premières plaintes avaient été déposées. Mais il souligne aussi qu'« il fallait que la justice pénale, avec les moyens d'enquête importants à sa disposition, contribue, avec d'autres, à faire la lumière sur les

raisons de l'usage de la chlordécone en Guadeloupe et en Martinique". **Alors que Martiniquais et Guadeloupéens craignent que des délais de prescription ne soient encore appliqués et empêchent ce procès d'avoir lieu, plusieurs groupes de militants politiques se sont renforcés dans les deux îles et continuent leurs luttes pour la justice sociale, économique et environnementale.** Il faut donc espérer que la solidarité caribéenne au niveau local et dans la diaspora prévaudra et que les manifestations publiques se renforcent afin de contraindre la France à assumer sa part de responsabilité dans ce crime et à commencer à nettoyer ce désordre colonial dans la Caraïbe française.

English

Polluted Lands, Poisoned Bodies:

The Chlordene Colonial Mess in the French Caribbean

In *Britain's Black Debt: Reparations for Caribbean Slavery and Native Genocide*, Barbadian historian Sir Hilary Beckles calls for reparatory justice and strongly denounces the "colonial mess" that Britain has left behind and has now the duty to clean up in the Caribbean. This call for reparations resonates worldwide and across the wider Caribbean in particular, hence I consciously refer to this "colonial mess" in the context of the chlordene scandal in the French Antilles.

Chlordecone (Kepone) was this toxic pesticide created in the 1950s and banned twenty-five years later by the USA after the Allied Chemical Corporation was sued for polluting the James River. In 1979, the World Health Organization included Kepone into its list of toxic and potentially cancer-related chemicals and thirty years later, in 2009, the production of the pesticide was officially banned worldwide under the Stockholm Convention. In Guadeloupe and Martinique, banana plantation owners (mostly "békés", white descendants of slave owners but also small planters who owned their lands) have continuously used the chlordecone pesticide and have had their workers spray it on their banana crops from 1972 onward. **The use of chlordene was banned by France as late as 1990, hence fifteen years later than the American ban. The most shocking is that the French ban was then applied exclusively to mainland "metropolitan" France since banana planters were granted an exceptional extension to use the toxic substance in the French Antilles until 1993. There were thus three additional years of poison being massively sprayed onto banana crops in Martinique and Guadeloupe.** From the banana plantations which are located upstream, the pesticide has contaminated the sweet potato and yam crops

MESSAGE FROM THE LANGUAGE SUB-EDITORS cont'd

downstream, then the river waters and their crayfishes, the crabs by the sea, the cattles, even cow's milk, hence the poison infiltrated our soils, waters, crops, animals, and bodies.

Chlordecone has now penetrated and spread into our soils and cannot be totally cleansed for centuries. As of today, over 90 percent Martinican and Guadeloupean men and women are said to have been exposed to the toxic pesticide. In 2018, the two islands were declared as having the highest rates of prostate cancer in the world (see 2019 BBC News report "Pesticide poisoned French paradise islands in the Caribbean" by Laurence Peter). Martinican political leader Serge Letchimy, former member of parliament and recently elected President of the Territorial authorities of Martinique (CTM), had then reported that the pesticide could also impact children's health in particular brain development and risks of premature births. It is known worldwide that many ecological disasters have affected women and children in particular, for instance the 1976 industrial catastrophe of Seveso in Italy with its impact on fertility, or the 1979 explosion of the nuclear plant Three Mile Island in the USA, at the origin of the numerous cases of miscarriages in this region. In the case of chlordecone, French Caribbean bodies have been poisoned despite the French national ban.

Besides, in Serge Letchimy's parliamentary report, it is clearly stated that France was informed of the dangerous nature of the pesticide as early as 1969. As for the extension of the use of the pesticide in the French Antilles, it was obtained by the lobby of banana plantation owners (békés, large plantation owners as well as smaller banana plantation owners and planters who owned their lands) with the complicity of some Martinican politicians who then believed that this extension would save the productions of the local banana planters in their communities whose plantation would not survive without using this pesticide. **While it is evident that the békés have made and continue to make the biggest profit within the banana plantation business, it is not so easy to determine individual and collective responsibility and the entanglements of this chlordecone scandal are indeed analysed in *Le scandale du Chlordécone: Chronique d'un empoisonnement annoncé* by Martinican public figures Raphael Confiant and Louis Boutrin.** What is certain is that what truly mattered at the time was not the health of our people but rather the economic survival of an agricultural sector: **economic profit thus superseded humanity and health.** Martinican political leaders of the 1980s-1990s did not see the chlordecone issue as crucial or vital at the time and did not struggle to prevent France from extending the use of this toxic substance.

Allowing a delayed ban of this carcinogenic product in the French Antilles, France has betrayed the Martinican population who is now asking for reparations.

While past calls for justice have remained relatively ignored or dismissed, from 2018 onwards, political leaders in Martinique and Guadeloupe have made stronger cases for environmental justice and reparations and the French government has acknowledged that chlordecone is indeed an environmental scandal, although denying its cancer-relatedness. The French government has nominated a special parliamentary committee to seek solutions to solve the chlordecone crisis. **Martinicans and Guadeloupeans were called to run blood tests to evaluate the level of chlordecone in their bodies and the soils and waters were tested for pesticides, especially near banana plantations.** In 2018, the Regional Natural Park of Martinique has launched a campaign for the creation of a new label: « Zero chlordecone ». The aim is to help consumers identify products that have grown outside areas polluted by this pesticide and promote farmers who subscribe to this « Zero chlordecone » approach.

However, these initiatives won't clean up the chlordecone colonial mess. There were indeed several public demonstrations to demand justice and condemnation of the banana plantations owners and planters who continued to use the pesticide. Despite the limitation periods, strong calls are made from the civil society for the trial to take place and for the French government to take its share of responsibility for this state crime. In March 2021, in an interview for the daily France-Antilles newspaper, the public prosecutor stated that despite the fact that this case was brought to justice in 2006 by associations from Guadeloupe and Martinique, the problems of limitation existed for the most part as soon as the complaints were filed. But he also stresses that it was necessary that the criminal justice, with the important means of investigation at its disposal, contribute, with others, to shed light on the reasons for the use of chlordecone in Guadeloupe and Martinique. **As Martinicans and Guadeloupeans fear that limitation periods may still be applied and prevent this trial from taking place, several political activist groups have grown stronger in both islands and continue to call for social, economic and environmental justice.** Let us hope that Caribbean solidarity at home and in the diaspora will prevail and that public demonstrations will grow stronger and sounder in order to force France to take its share of responsibility for this crime and start to clean up this colonial mess.

MESSAGE FROM THE GRADUATE STUDENT REP.



Regan Reid

The failure to properly control and mitigate the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic in Small Island Developing States (SIDs) has had far-reaching implications for their developing economies. Notably, in the Caribbean, where hospitals and vital resources have become more dramatically overwhelmed since the pandemic, systems must ration scarce resources based on discretionary and

rational decision-making despite the public's extensive demand. According to Emanuel et al. (2020) in their article *Fair Allocation of Scarce Medical Resources in the Time of Covid-19*, institutions must answer the pressing question of how to ration crucial resources ethically and consistently in the height of the pandemic. The increasing imbalance between supply and demand for critical medical resources and the growing pressures for equal and equitable allocation of such resources in the present time calls to attention the magnitude of the problem within the Caribbean.

Indeed, the Caribbean is in a precarious position. The overreliance on tourism as a cash crop for continued economic growth while failing to screen and assess tourists properly upon entry to popular tourist destinations has, in turn, placed extraordinary demands on the public health systems. However committed governments are to increase access to vaccinations and serious medical interventions for their citizens, much of their efforts to manage, surveil, and trace contacts have yielded disappointing results. To compound the situation further, the Covid-19 pandemic continues to reduce the availability of health care workers since the virus is quickly spreading among doctors and nurses, who are also becoming ill.

Ironically, while some countries are eagerly welcoming tourists to their shores, they are also occupying top positions on the international travel ban list. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a travel advisory discouraging travel to Jamaica and St Lucia in the past week. In Jamaica, the current statistics indicate that the average number of Covid-19 related deaths have far outpaced vaccination progress demonstrating that all indigenous peoples and travelers alike may be at risk for getting and transmitting the virus. Jamaica Covid-19 statistics for August revealed that the average number of new cases per day stood at 158.4 across seven days by August end.

On the other hand, although St. Lucia has done a comparatively better job in vaccination progress and in managing the spread of the virus, in terms of average deaths to the average number of Covid-19 cases, the situation is still a dire one. One article in the *Caribbean Times* (2021, September) confirmed in a statement from the Ministry of Health, Wellness, and Elderly Affairs that "the daily infection rate for the past week was 82.0 per 100,000 per day and an average of 148.7 cases per day." Not only is this frightening, but panic has undoubtedly set in since health care providers and institutions have issued warnings to the public explicitly lamenting its inability to tend to and treat otherwise "minor" illnesses as a consequence of priority setting.

Perhaps, the new headline in all major newspapers across the region should read "Rationing is Here!" In this new age, Caribbean governments must ensure that sustainable measures are in place to protect the public's health and improve the strength of healthcare systems. They must ask themselves; how can we sustainably balance economic progress and public health in a pandemic? Perhaps, together, we can examine the problem from a holistic perspective and advocate for meaningful and sustainable solutions.

Español

La falta de control y mitigación adecuados de los efectos de la pandemia de Covid-19 en los pequeños Estados insulares en desarrollo (PEID) ha tenido implicaciones de gran alcance para sus economías en desarrollo. En particular, en el Caribe, donde los hospitales y los recursos vitales se han vuelto más dramáticamente abrumados desde la pandemia, los sistemas deben racionar los escasos recursos basándose en una toma de decisiones discrecional y racional a pesar de la gran demanda del público. Según Emanuel et al. (2020) en su artículo Asignación justa de recursos médicos escasos en la época del Covid-19, las instituciones deben responder a la urgente pregunta de cómo racionar los recursos cruciales de manera ética y consistente en el apogeo de la pandemia. El creciente desequilibrio entre la oferta y la demanda de recursos médicos críticos y las crecientes presiones para una asignación igualitaria y equitativa de dichos recursos en el momento actual llama la atención sobre la magnitud del problema en el Caribe.

De hecho, el Caribe se encuentra en una situación precaria. La dependencia excesiva del turismo como cultivo comercial para el crecimiento económico continuo, al tiempo que no se examina y evalúa adecuadamente a los turistas al ingresar a los destinos turísticos populares, ha creado, a su vez, demandas extraordinarias para los sistemas de salud pública. Por muy comprometidos que estén los

MESSAGE FROM THE GRADUATE STUDENT REP. cont'd

gobiernos a aumentar el acceso a las vacunas y las intervenciones médicas serias para sus ciudadanos, gran parte de sus esfuerzos por gestionar, vigilar y rastrear los contactos han arrojado resultados decepcionantes. Para agravar aún más la situación, la pandemia de Covid-19 continúa reduciendo la disponibilidad de trabajadores de la salud, ya que el virus se está propagando rápidamente entre médicos y enfermeras, que también se están enfermando.

Irónicamente, aunque algunos países reciben con entusiasmo a los turistas en sus costas, también ocupan las primeras posiciones en la lista de prohibiciones de viajes internacionales. Los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC) emitieron una advertencia de viaje desalentando los viajes a Jamaica y Santa Lucía la semana pasada. En Jamaica, las estadísticas actuales indican que el número promedio de muertes relacionadas con Covid-19 ha superado con creces el progreso de la vacunación, lo que demuestra que todos los pueblos indígenas y viajeros por igual pueden estar en riesgo de contraer y transmitir el virus. Las estadísticas de Jamaica Covid-19 para agosto revelaron que el número promedio de casos nuevos por día era de 158,4 en siete días a fines de agosto.

Por otro lado, aunque Santa Lucía ha hecho un trabajo comparativamente mejor en el progreso de la vacunación y en el manejo de la propagación del virus, en términos de muertes promedio al número promedio de casos de Covid-19, la situación sigue siendo terrible. Un artículo del Caribbean Times (2021, septiembre) confirmó en un comunicado del Ministerio de Salud, Bienestar y Ancianos que "la tasa diaria de infección durante la semana pasada fue de 82,0 por 100.000 por día y un promedio de 148,7 casos por día . " Esto no solo es aterrador, sino que indudablemente ha surgido el pánico desde que los proveedores de atención médica y las instituciones han emitido advertencias al público lamentando explícitamente su incapacidad para atender y tratar enfermedades que de otro modo serían "menores" como consecuencia del establecimiento de prioridades.

Quizás, el nuevo titular de todos los principales periódicos de la región debería decir "¡El racionamiento está aquí!" En esta nueva era, los gobiernos del Caribe deben garantizar que se implementen medidas sostenibles para proteger la salud pública y mejorar la solidez de los sistemas de salud. Deben preguntarse a sí mismos; ¿Cómo podemos equilibrar de manera sostenible el progreso económico y la salud pública en una pandemia? Quizás, juntos, podamos examinar el problema desde una perspectiva holística y abogar por soluciones significativas y sostenibles.

Français

L'incapacité de contrôler et d'atténuer correctement les effets de la pandémie de Covid-19 dans les petits États insulaires en développement (SID) a eu des implications de grande envergure pour leurs économies en développement. Notamment, dans les Caraïbes, où les hôpitaux et les ressources vitales sont devenus plus dramatiquement submergés depuis la pandémie, les systèmes doivent rationner les ressources rares sur la base d'une prise de décision discrétionnaire et rationnelle malgré la demande importante du public. Selon Emmanuel et al. (2020) dans leur article Fair Allocation of Rare Medical Resources in the Time of Covid-19, les institutions doivent répondre à la question pressante de savoir comment rationner les ressources cruciales de manière éthique et cohérente au plus fort de la pandémie. Le déséquilibre croissant entre l'offre et la demande de ressources médicales essentielles et les pressions croissantes pour une répartition égale et équitable de ces ressources à l'heure actuelle attirent l'attention sur l'ampleur du problème dans les Caraïbes.

En effet, la Caraïbe est dans une position précaire. La dépendance excessive du tourisme en tant que culture de rente pour une croissance économique continue tout en oubliant de filtrer et d'évaluer correctement les touristes à l'entrée des destinations touristiques populaires a, à son tour, imposé des exigences extraordinaires aux systèmes de santé publique. Même si les gouvernements se sont engagés à accroître l'accès aux vaccinations et aux interventions médicales sérieuses pour leurs citoyens, une grande partie de leurs efforts pour gérer, surveiller et retrouver les contacts ont donné des résultats décevants. Pour agraver encore la situation, la pandémie de Covid-19 continue de réduire la disponibilité du personnel de santé car le virus se propage rapidement parmi les médecins et les infirmières, qui tombent également malades. Ironiquement, alors que certains pays accueillent avec empressement les touristes sur leurs côtes, ils occupent également les premières places sur la liste des interdictions de voyager internationales. Les Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) ont émis un avis aux voyageurs décourageant les voyages en Jamaïque et à Sainte-Lucie la semaine dernière. En Jamaïque, les statistiques actuelles indiquent que le nombre moyen de décès liés à Covid-19 a largement dépassé les progrès de la vaccination, démontrant que tous les peuples autochtones et les voyageurs peuvent être à risque de contracter et de transmettre le virus. Les statistiques de la Jamaïque Covid-19 pour août ont révélé que le nombre moyen de nouveaux cas par jour s'élevait à 158,4 sur sept jours à la fin du mois d'août.

MESSAGE FROM THE GRADUATE STUDENT REP. cont'd

D'un autre côté, bien que Sainte-Lucie ait fait un travail comparativement meilleur dans les progrès de la vaccination et dans la gestion de la propagation du virus, en termes de décès moyen par rapport au nombre moyen de cas de Covid-19, la situation est toujours désastreuse. Un article du Caribbean Times (2021, septembre) a confirmé dans une déclaration du ministère de la Santé, du Bien-être et des Affaires des personnes âgées que « le taux d'infection quotidien pour la semaine dernière était de 82,0 pour 100 000 par jour et une moyenne de 148,7 cas par jour. . " Non seulement cela est effrayant, mais la panique s'est indubitablement installée depuis que les fournisseurs de soins de santé et les institutions ont lancé des avertissements au public, déplorant explicitement son incapacité à soigner et à traiter des maladies par ailleurs « mineures » en raison de l'établissement des priorités.

Peut-être que le nouveau titre de tous les principaux journaux de la région devrait se lire « Le rationnement est là ! » Dans cette nouvelle ère, les gouvernements des Caraïbes doivent veiller à ce que des mesures durables soient en place pour protéger la santé publique et améliorer la solidité des systèmes de santé. Ils doivent se demander ; comment équilibrer durablement progrès économique et santé publique en cas de pandémie ? Peut-être qu'ensemble, nous pouvons examiner le problème dans une perspective holistique et plaider en faveur de solutions significatives et durables.

CSA MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Dr. Irma McClaurin

Dr. Irma McClaurin is a visionary, academic entrepreneur, and founder of the Irma McClaurin Black Feminist Archive at the University of Massachusetts Amherst (<http://irmamcclaurin.com/works/black-feminist-archive/>). She is an activist anthropologist who presented her first paper at CSA in 1995 and holds a life-long membership. She has served on CSA's Executive Committee and was Program Chair for the 2003 CSA conference held in Belize. Her anthropological focus is on the social construction of inequality and intersectionality and she had conducted research in Belize, Suriname and the United States.



Past leadership roles include president of Shaw University, Chief Diversity Officer at Teach For America, Senior Faculty at the United States Government's Federal Executive Institute, Deputy Provost at Fisk University, and is the founder of the Africana Women's Studies Program at Bennett College for Women and Associate Vice President and the founding Executive Director of the University of Minnesota's first Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center. McClaurin was tenured in anthropology at both the University of Florida and University of Minnesota. While serving as a Program Officer for Education and Scholarship at the Ford Foundation, she managed a \$10.8M portfolio with 59 grantees and awarded CSA an organizational grant to support the development of women's leadership in the organization.

Now retired, Dr. McClaurin is the sole proprietor of Irma McClaurin Solutions, a consulting company. Services include Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Strategies, Community Engagement, Executive Coaching for Leadership and Writing, and Organizational Change. She works with individuals, organizations, nonprofits, and corporations. Recent contracts include senior DEI consultant for the Rochester Museum and Science Center on the largest 8000 sf exhibit, "The Changemakers: Rochester Women Who Changed the World" (<http://rmsc.org/>)

Accomplishments:

An award-winning writer, McClaurin is the Editor of *Black Feminist Anthropology: Theory, Politics, Praxis and Poetics*, selected as an "Outstanding Academic Title" by Choice Magazine in 2001 and named "Best in the Nation Columnist" by the Black Press of America in 2015 for her column "A Black Mother Weeps for America: STOP KILLING OUR BLACK SONS, originally published in Insight News, a Black Minneapolis paper where she serves as Culture and Education Editor and has published over 90+ columns.

In 2016, she founded the "Irma McClaurin Black Feminist Archive" (BFA) in collaboration with the Special Collections and University Archives, W.E.B. Du Bois Library, University of Massachusetts Amherst. The interdisciplinary BFA is designed to build an "archival home" for Black women who are activists, artists, academics, and just everyday folk. This recent article she wrote describes her goal to render Black women "Visible and Heard."

Awards and Grants:

2021: Recipient of the American Anthropology Association's Engaged Anthropology Award :

Recipient of the 2021 Wenner Gren's Global Initiative Grant to support her work on the Black Feminist Archive:

2020: Historical Archive Grant to Support Development of the Irma McClaurin Black Feminist Archive, Wenner Gren Foundation

2018: Recognized as "A Woman Philanthropist to Watch" for founding the "Irma McClaurin Black Feminist Archive, University of Massachusetts Amherst.

2017: First Award for "Vision & Commitment," presented by the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) in celebration of their 40th Anniversary for her support of their organizational transformation with grants from the Ford Foundation.

2016: Honored as a Distinguished Alumna, University of Massachusetts Amherst

CSA MEMBER HIGHLIGHT cont'd

McClaurin is currently retired and operates her own consulting, coaching and public speaking business, Irma McClaurin Solutions; she also is a free-lance writer and also the Culture and Education Editor for Insight News.

She is also compiling some of her columns into a forthcoming book: *JUSTSPEAK: Reflections on Race, Culture and Politics in America*, and preparing the research data she collected in the late 1990s on women in Suriname as an ethnography, similar to her book on *Women of Belize: Gender and Change in Central America* (Rutgers), now 25 years old and still in print. When first published in 1996, it became the second book ever published on women and gender in Belize.

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NEW BOOK

Dictionary of Latin American Identities

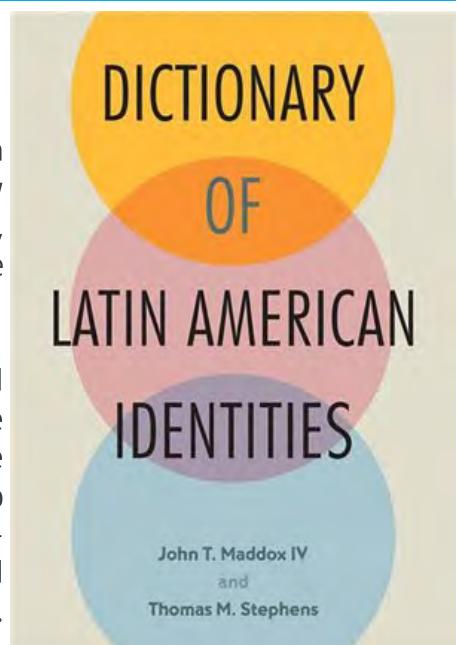
John T. Maddox IV and Thomas M. Stephens

Unparalleled in its thoroughness, its accessibility, and its relevance to all areas of Latin American studies, this volume is a dictionary of 21,000 terms related to race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality used in the region over the past five centuries. It includes the languages of Spanish, Portuguese, French, and their Creoles, and encompasses an interdisciplinary range of sources that highlight the intersectional nature of identity.

The words and phrases in this dictionary are accompanied by detailed English definitions, literal translations, and notes on etymology and usage, including the region and time period in which the terms have occurred. Cross-references assist readers looking for synonyms, antonyms, or alternate spellings. The volume contains equivalent terms from the Francophone Indian Ocean islands, due to the history of colonialism they share with the Antilles, as well as terms from Africa that are connected to the Americas via the slave trade. Terms and definitions are taken from humanities and social science scholarship, literary works, personal interviews, colonial documents, and internet discourse. The dictionary also features a historical, cultural, and theoretical introduction, as well as an extensive bibliography.

Addressing the reality that categories for identity are highly fluid, contentious, and contextually bound, *Dictionary of Latin American Identities* is a helpful guide to such nuances and complexities for researchers who are not fluent in the languages of a given country or area. It will serve as an invaluable reference for understanding and correctly using the myriad words that describe and classify identities in Latin America.

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CARIBBEAN SCHOLARSHIP

People Power Movements in Caribbean Festival Culture



Please join
Meagan Sylvester
Senior Lecturer, Music Sociologist, Author, Researcher

September 27, 2021
4:00PM

This event is Virtual, please register on the Cornell Calendar:
<https://events.cornell.edu>

AFRICANA
STUDIES & RESEARCH CENTER

The College of
Arts&Sciences

People Power Movements in Caribbean Festival Culture

Monday, September 27, 2021 at 4:00pm

Virtual Event

The Africana Studies & Research Center (ASRC) at Cornell University will host a lecture by Meagan Sylvester: People Power Movements in Caribbean Festival Culture

Meagan Sylvester, Senior Lecturer, Music Sociologist, Author, Researcher.

Meagan Sylvester is a published author from the Caribbean twin island of Trinidad and Tobago. She is a UWI, St. Augustine graduate and a Caribbean scholar whose doctoral research focused on Narratives of Resistance in Calypso and Ragga Soca music. Her continuing interrogation within the academy centers on Music, Gender, and National Identity in Calypso and Soca, Music of Diasporic Carnivals, Narratives of Resistance in Calypso and Ragga Soca music, Steelpan and kaisoJazz musical identities. Teaching and research interests are Caribbean Music Cultures and African Diaspora Popular Culture.

GAME CHANGERS INITIATIVE

Marine Pollution Control Initiatives in the Caribbean Region [1]

Author: Dr. Santosh Kumar Mishra [2]

[1] Contribution submitted on September 20, 2021 to Meagan Sylvester, CSA Executive Council Member at newseditor@caribbeanstudiesassociation.org & secretary@caribbeanstudiesassociation.org for consideration for publication in the Caribbean Studies Association Newsletter

[2] **Dr. Santosh Kumar Mishra (Ph. D.)** (He/his), Independent Researcher (Post-retirement from the Population Education Resource Centre, Department of Lifelong Learning & Extension, S. N. D. T. Women's University, Mumbai, India

[Email: drskmishrain@yahoo.com]

This policy brief (based on secondary data) aims to outline some of the sustainable efforts that national governments and other stakeholders have made in the Caribbean nations for the purpose of marine pollution control. The author, using "*desk-based research*", has discussed meaningful and relevant initiative in the area of marine pollution control in the Caribbean. The Caribbean region has witnessed sea level rise (including "*marine pollution*" and "*damage to land environment*"). Several initiatives are underway to bring the situation under control. Harmful plastic waste has caused severe damage to the Caribbean ocean, with resulting marine pollution. Nearly 70 to 80 % of marine litter in the Caribbean sea comes from land, and most of it consists of plastics.

According to an estimate, if present trend continues, by the year 2050, the Caribbean oceans will have more plastic than fish. This scenario calls for interventions and strategic measures aimed at encouraging people to "*reject single use plastic*" and to "*refuse what can't be reused*". These initiatives will pave the way for a cleaner and greener Caribbean. Domestic wastewater is another pollutant for the Wider Caribbean region (WCR).

The WCR is made up of small islands and low-lying coastal states within a tropical climate (with occasional natural disasters). The region's climate is conducive to (a) year-round beach, and (b) water-related activities. Therefore, more waste production and potential marine litter are witnessed in the region. It was in the context of these marine environmental threats (and considerations) that wider cooperation between the States of the WCR to combat this issue and mitigate the problem was felt.

Countries in the Caribbean region have undertaken series of initiatives to control marine pollution. International agencies, such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) have also played key roles. Some of the meaningful projects in this direction include: (a) Efforts to Ban Single-Use Plastics, (b) Clean Seas Initiative, (c) Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution Protocol and the Caribbean Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter (RAPMaLi), & (d) Initiatives of the UN Environment's Caribbean Environment Programme in Community Involvement.

It is pertinent to note that pollution on the land also affects ocean waters and marine life in the Caribbean region. Litters (such as plastic and chemicals) are washed into storm water drains and rivers which flow into the sea. The extent of impact (or damage to marine environment) depends on two contributing factors: (a) "*the type and scale of pollution*", and (b) "*where the pollution occurs*". It has been reported that some marine environments and marine life are more sensitive than others to pollution.

The Caribbean countries are particularly vulnerable to health-related impacts of pollution, such as viruses borne of mosquitoes that breed in the litter. The sea and marine ecosystems are being degraded. This research note concludes that the Caribbean region has taken note of the marine pollution situation. In February 2017, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) launched (in partnership with national governments and the private sector) the "Clean Seas" campaign to address marine pollution concerns.

Declaration: The author states that (a) there is no conflict of interest in this research work, (b) the manuscript has not been sent elsewhere for publication, & (c) no funding has been received for authoring the research paper.

Bio: Dr. Santosh Kumar Mishra (Ph. D.) retired on June 30, 2020 from the Population Education Resource Centre, Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension, S. N. D. T. Women's University, Mumbai, India. He underwent training in demography and acquired Ph. D. His areas of interest include demography, sustainable development, etc. Dr. Mishra has authored (some co-authored) 5 booklets, 4 books, 22 book chapters, 74 journal articles, and 49 papers for conferences (some with bursary) for presenting research papers at international events held at Sweden, Australia, Tajikistan, USA, Tanzania, Philippines, Ireland, Nepal, and Pakistan). Also, he has contributed to nearly 190 e-discussions.



YOUR COMMENTARY



Alicia Nicholls

From 'symbolic to substantive': What next for Post-Summit Africa-CARICOM Relations?

After being delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the historic African Union (AU)-Caribbean Community (CARICOM) summit held on September 7, 2021 was the most high-level effort so far

at cementing the Africa-Caribbean relationship. For me, it coincided with an Afronomics Law Symposium I co-convened with Dr. Ohio Omiunu of De Montfort University on "Prospects for deepening Africa-Caribbean economic relations" which featured [essays](#) from a stellar line-up of regional and international academics and practitioners on Africa-Caribbean relations from a variety of perspectives. In this article, I outline some of the major take-aways from the AU-CARICOM Summit and offer some suggestions on how we can make this moment in history one which is not merely symbolic but substantive.

The Summit

The summit, held under the theme '***Unity Across Continents and Oceans: Opportunities for Deepening Integration***', had the stated objective of building "a foundation for lasting robust socio-economic and political engagements as well as partnerships between the two regions for a collective prosperous future". It featured speeches from Heads of Government/State of African and Caribbean countries, as well as other high-level dignitaries.

All of the speakers emphasized the importance of closer Africa-Caribbean ties in light of shared development challenges, vulnerabilities and struggles. These range from the on-going COVID-19 pandemic and struggle for equitable COVID-19 vaccine access, to more chronic issues, such as shared vulnerabilities to climate change and the need for greater access to concessional financing. This was reflected in the final communique which saw the two regions expressing solidarity on things such as their objection to vaccine hoarding, vaccine nationalism and the sanctions against Cuba and Zimbabwe by western powers, and support for reparations and accelerated climate action.

The summit is the latest initiative in a push on both sides of the Atlantic for [closer Africa-CARICOM ties](#) which transcend traditional

historic and cultural ties towards real commercial ties and deeper economic and cultural cooperation. As I noted in a [previous piece](#) back in 2019 entitled, current Africa-Caribbean trade remains small, but the prospects for expanded Africa-Caribbean trade are promising given four main factors: (1) Caribbean countries' push for export partner diversification, (2) Africa is on the rise, (3) increased Caribbean-African awareness, and (4) the signing of the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA). Since 2019, there has been a concerted push toward strengthening these bonds of friendship, through the high-level visits made by Caribbean and African leaders to each other's countries and the expanded establishment of diplomatic missions. COVID-19 has seen an even [deeper focus](#) with the kind deployment of Ghanaian nurses to Barbados to assist in the COVID-19 fight, and access offered by the AU to CARICOM countries to the African Medical Supplies Platform.

From symbolic to substantive

Despite the enthusiasm and euphoric sentiments the Summit has brought, it is imperative that this post-Summit moment be regarded not as a mere 'talkshop' or symbolic moment, but a catalytic and substantive juncture in our shared history.

First, it must be recognized that while Africa and Caribbean countries do indeed have many areas of deep commonality, as exemplified by our cooperation in a variety of fora like the OACPS, the WTO and the like, there are some important differences that must be addressed and not overlooked. With the best of intentions, our sovereign interests [might not always align](#) in multilateral fora. While shared approaches in multilateral fora wherever possible would be advantageous to our regions, it is also important to realise that this might not always be the case. Firms from the continent and the region must also familiarize themselves with the cultural differences that exist if trade is to flourish and be mutually beneficial.

Second, deeper Africa-Caribbean economic relations cannot be achieved by high level political decisions and summits alone. Although governments have an important role in creating the facilitating frameworks for these relations to take place, such as through establishing diplomatic missions, signing air services agreements, visa waiver agreements, mutual recognition agreements and the like, it is firms and individuals which must take advantage of these. Therefore, the call for the establishment of a CARICOM Public-Private Partnership is one I will watch with much interest and look forward to hearing further details on what will be its mandate. Institutionalising [relationships](#) between export promotion and

YOUR COMMENTARY

investment promotion agencies in the region and on the continent through the signing of MOUs and establishment of working groups will be needed, as well as joint trade missions and shows to showcase each other's goods and services, even if only in a virtual setting for now due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. The cultural industries is a rich area for Africa-Caribbean trade and investment. Nigeria and Ghana, in particular, are known for its movie industries (Nollywood and Gollywood respectively). Encouraging joint production agreements between Caribbean and African film producers would be useful to promoting cultural industries trade. In a previous article I wrote, I spoke of the collaboration between artistes Timaya and Machel Montano. Joint research between universities in Africa and the Caribbean is increasingly possible due to the existing MOUs between the University of the West Indies and some of the continent. This research can include on the areas of genealogy, science and technology, fintech, agriculture, climate change, renewable energy and other areas.

Third, the communique has outlined several steps for deepening relations. These include the designation of September 7 each year as Africa-CARICOM Day, establishing a dedicated Secretariat and holding annual Africa-CARICOM summits on this day. While this is a good symbolic suggestion, this still limits this initiative to the political realm. There must be involvement of civil society, the private sectors and citizenry of both regions in these activities, such as through special side events and activities undertaken by these stakeholders and public awareness campaigns. Another way in which this could be done is through greater youth involvement through, for instance, intern exchanges at the secretariats of CARICOM and the AU respectively.

Fourth, and mercifully, the communique has avoided, to some extent, being little more than a lengthy recital of hortatory goals by having some concrete plans to be achieved within six months. A time-bound plan has been agreed to for establishing an institutionalized partnership and the conclusion of an MOU. This is a good start, but the real success of this will not be evident until it is put to the test.

Alicia Nicholls, B.Sc., M.Sc., LL.B. is an international trade and development specialist and founder of Caribbean trade Law blog: www.caribbeantradelaw.com.

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